



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND

ECCC

1 September 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

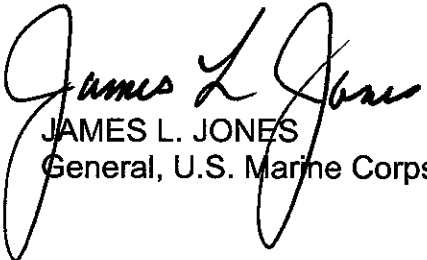
SUBJECT: Voting Assistance

1. The opportunity for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilian employees and their family members to register and vote in the 2004 elections depends significantly on the information and assistance Voting Assistance Officers (VAO) make available to them.
2. The Secretary of Defense and I are asking command-wide support for the following:
 - a. Ensuring support of the voting program at all levels of command. Personal involvement of commanders is critical to effective implementation of the voting program. Commanders must assign quality officers the duty of VAO and ensure they have the time and resources needed to perform their duties.
 - b. Publicizing the identity and location of the VAO and maintaining prominent voting information links on your websites. The federal website is <http://www.fvap.gov>.
 - c. Ensuring your VAO has a sufficient supply of Federal Post Card Applications and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots and copies are provided to all our service members, civilians and family members. Just like the annual Combined Federal Campaign, "100% contact" is the goal.
 - d. Using command and public information capabilities to support the September 2004 Armed Forces Voter's Week. The week of October 11 - 15 is designated as Absentee Voting Week; we need maximum effort to inform all service members, civilians and family members that ballots mailed by 15 October will reach any precinct in time for their vote to count. Additional special days should be designated to publicize absentee voter registration and voting procedures.

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3. The mission is to ensure every service member, civilian and family member has the opportunity to vote in the 2004 Elections. Voting is both a privilege and responsibility of all citizens in a democracy. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines along with the civilian employees and families supporting them are on the tip of the sword that is defending and promoting our democracy every day; their involvement is crucial. *"It's Your Future, Vote for It!"*



JAMES L. JONES
General, U.S. Marine Corps

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